

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the application in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

**Status of the Claims**

Claims 4, 6-8, and 10-14 are pending.

Claims 1-3, 5, and 9 were cancelled in a previous amendment.

Claims 4, 7 and 14 have been amended.

No new matter has been added.

**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant appreciatively thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowance of claims 8, and 10-13. Applicant also appreciatively thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter recited in claim 7.

Applicant has amended independent claim 4 to recite features of claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 4, and dependent claims 6-7, are in condition for allowance.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 based on Laurent, Wilkens, and Komaili**

Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over PCT Publication WO 98/24201 to Laurent and U.S. Patent No. 4,309,771 to Wilkens in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,529,730 to Komaili et al. ("Komaili").

Independent claim 4 has now been amended so as to recite features of allowable claim 7. It is respectfully submitted that claim 4 is therefore now allowable for the same reasons that claim 7



Wilkins, and the Examiner's statement, to the extent proper, could not render claim 14 unpatentable.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) based on Laurent and Wilkins in view of the Examiner's statement.

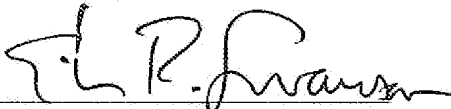
**CONCLUSION**

Each and every point raised in the Office Action mailed May 30, 2007 has been addressed on the basis of the above remarks. In view of the foregoing it is believed that claims 4, 6-8, and 10-14 are in condition for allowance and it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue.

If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through a Supplemental Response or an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number indicated below.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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